

Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

Nancy Nelson, Editor

Vol. 12 No. 4

Friday, August 1, 2014

The Conservation Pledge

I pledge to protect and preserve the natural resources of the planet Earth, and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, land, forest, and wildlife.

Richardson on GMO Labeling

In OREGON, it seems the gubernatorial race is heating up between the Democratic Governor *John Kitzhaber* and Republican gubernatorial candidate *Dennis Richardson*. The current issue of THE ROGUE VALLEY MESSENGER claims *Richardson* stopped by their office for some self-promotion, and the interviewer asked his leanings about GMO labeling. *Richardson* asserted that the State should make the determination. It is difficult to believe a candidate could so horribly offend the conscience of voters who will decide what's best, *not* visa versa. *Richardson's* put down of the American People's right for self-determination of state-wide GMO labeling policy is one more reason to vote YES ON MEASURE 92. It is up to you voters to prevent the wielding of power to subvert the functioning of democracy. The State will decide *for* you otherwise.

Will you seize the day by writing *Letters to the Editor* of THE SNEAK PREVIEW, or will you pretend that you can't. One can email sneakpre@mind.net or write the paper's Editor, *Curtis Hayden*, at 2305-C Ashland Street, #317, Ashland, OREGON 97520. THE SNEAK PREVIEW claims to be the most widely-read newspaper in *Ashland*, OREGON. It is direct-mailed to 11,900 households and 1000 businesses in town, and has an additional 2,200 copies on the newsstands.

The Rogue Valley Hiroshima-Nagasaki Vigil

The *Ashland*, OREGON, branch of the *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom* (WILPF) and the *2014 Hiroshima and Nagasaki Vigil Committee* with a dozen other co-sponsors invite you to the 29th annual **Rogue Valley Hiroshima-Nagasaki Vigil**. Saturday night, August 2, 2014, at 7 p.m. the vigil's keynote speaker was *Charles Johnson*, Director of the *Joint Task Force on Nuclear Power* for the PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. His topic was "*Hanford's Connection with Nuclear Power and Nuclear Weapons.*"

August 6, at 8 a.m. is the *Hiroshima* opening ceremony led by *Reverend Paula Sohl* at the entrance to Lithia Park. This year's theme is *Stop the Madness and Create a SANE World*. After the opening ceremony, the vigil shifts over to the Plaza with a Nuclear Maze display and scheduled events for August 6, 7, and 8th. See www.atomicvigil.net.

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This year's atomic vigil closes August 9th at 7 p.m. at the Japanese Garden in Lithia Park with a gentle Nagasaki commemorative. *Reverend Norma Burton* will solemnize the floating of sunflowers downstream. Please come. Beautiful, fresh sunflowers will be provided for your participation.

The European Court of Human Rights

It's been 15-years since the *University of New Hampshire* researchers found that *unspanked* children score higher on cognitive ability tests, so the *European Court of Human Rights* concluded that a British law that allowed parents to spank their own children was illegal. The nation of BRITAIN was fined \$50,4000 in damages and legal fees, and the British government had to amend their law that allowed spankings. The outmoded law failed to protect children from the degrading and inhuman treatment as required by the EUROPEAN CONVENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

(Sources: January/February 1999, MOTHERING, "*Spanking Gets Spanked in High Court*" the EUROPEAN COURT homepage [www.http://194.250.50.200/](http://194.250.50.200/) ; the UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE homepage at www.unh.edu/fr1/cp24art.htm)

A Non-Punitive Approach

Last month, in June, 2014, *Michelle Obama* announced a challenge to AMERICA's mayors to reduce the homelessness of AMERICA's veterans. Denying food and warmth certainly is none answer. **The remedy for homelessness starts with having a home.**

Affordable Housing in Phoenix and Salt Lake City

Phoenix, ARIZONA, and *Salt Lake City*, UTAH, have implemented affordable housing plants that imposes none restrictions, such as staying sober. After homeless veterans are housed, and their living conditions have stabilized, they are then linked into help.

(Sources: July 24, 2014, DAILY TIDINGS, "*Crackdowns on homeless are cruel*"; July 20, 2014 CHICAGO TRIBUNE)

Birmingham, Chicago, Los Angeles & Pensacola

This Spring in *Birmingham*, ALABAMA, police stopped a pastor from handing out bottled water and hot dogs to homeless people living beneath a viaduct because the Pastor didn't have a food truck permit. Do you suppose such Pharisaical cops would have stopped *Jesus* from handing out loaves and fish.

Last summer in 2013, the *Chicago*, ILLINOIS, police warned citizens who were delivering meals that they could be arrested, resulting in a *Salvation Army* food truck being ordered to stop feeding people. But U.S. citizens pushed back against the too strict policy so Chicago's Pharisaical police stopped haranguing food donors, and the *Salvation Army* truck is once again delivering food to the vulnerable.

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Last year, in *Los Angeles*, CALIFORNIA, people who felt vexation toward the homeless accused those who give food handouts of encouraging squatters. Two Pharisaical *L.A.* city councilors heartlessly introduced an ordinance to ban homeless human beings from being fed.

In *Pensacola*, FLORIDA, the Pharisaical City Council passed a “*Blanket ban*”. The pitiless ordinance had banned sleeping outdoors while covered by bedroll materials, cardboard, newspapers, or sleeping inside some form of temporary shelter. Because of public outrage the Council reversed their intention to harm the homeless.

In *Dallas*, *Los Angeles*, *Orlando*, *Philadelphia* and dozens of other AMERICAN cities the culture of cruelty toward those who are struggling with life is still Pharisaical. It is inhumane and heartless to remove park benches or to install bench dividers to make it impossible for the homeless to stretch out and sleep.

Brookings Harbor and Grants Pass

Curry County, OREGON, will begin fining U.S. citizens \$250 for giving food or money to panhandlers beginning September 4, 2014. *Curry County* officials claim they are copycatting *Grants Pass* in *Josephine County*, OREGON. The problem seems to be with Commissioner *Susan Brown's* and the *Sheriff's* Pharisaical annoyance at those who hold signs asking for help.

Curry County does NOT apparently have a list of county resources for those in need of food, medical assistance, and shelter. The meagerly two sea villages of *Brookings* and *Brookings Harbor* are mad at the charitable who may donate more than a miserly dollar to panhandlers. *Curry County's* elected officials think it is audacious for anyone to generously give \$5 or \$10 bills away. The warrant is that *Curry County* suffers from stingy leadership who suffer from a scarcity model of the world. The new ordinance makes it blatantly obvious that *Curry County* is envious of panhandlers' who get FREE handouts, while the County treasury is ailing.

But to pad their ailing treasury by cruel means does NOT justify a selfish punitive approach to perceived problems. Fixated minds set on punishments are part of the poor county's crisis. A glass could be viewed as half-full instead of half-empty. Had the County viewed their panhandlers as an opportunity to find positive, rather than negative, answers, then their vision might have been transfixed on recognizing their panhandlers as a blessing in disguise. Happy are the merciful for what they see that the punitive are blind of.

But instead, *Commissioner Brown* got residents and shop owners in *Brookings Harbor* riled up about perceived over-generosity. The *Curry County Sheriff's Office* then “trained” *Ms. Brown's* “volunteers” and the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION posted signs, put up posters inside shops, and used a media scare campaign about fining U.S. citizens \$250 for giving panhandlers anything directly instead of funding the community. The new law is fear-mongering because of covetousness.

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Jealousy does NOT bode well for *Curry County*, because the eyes of the world see *Curry County* as grasping disgracefully for loopholes in the *Constitution of the United States of America's* (USA).

The Supreme Court upholds **First Amendment** free speech. *All* U.S. citizens have the inalienable speech protection to ask for help, and asking *implies* being inclusive, not exclusive, of the right to *receive* if someone wants to oblige in reciprocity to the request. That's the principle, or *spirit* of asking in the first place. It is disgraceful to fine people \$250 for giving small change or bills to panhandlers. Such picayune mentality brings shame to OREGON.

Oregon's Attorney General, *Ellen Rosenblum* and her OREGON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, should get whiff of displeasure if the State's counties pass laws that fail to protect U.S. citizens from degrading and inhuman treatment. Fining the charitable is degrading and inhumane. It is akin to Britain's outmoded "*spanking*" law that was deemed illegal.

May I Digress

According to Biblical lore, holy righteous angels roam the EARTH and take the measure of Mankind and some have entertained angels unawares. Play along with me and just suppose what would happen if *Angels* came to *Brookings Harbor* to take the measure of EARTH in 2014. *Curry County's mentality is to sic the Posse on 'em.*

The story of *Lot* exemplifies the *Biblical* revelation that Angels traverse the EARTH passing through towns and panhandling as they please to see whether humanity's love has waxed cold. Because the Good Angels *received* hospitality from *Lot*, they gave him a heavenly message that NOW might be a good time to take action to leave *Sodom* and *Gomorrah* with his family. It might be wonderful to walk away, to move across town, to move across the country, or to move to another nation where it is okay to be goodhearted and where the charitable are cherished.

Love had lost its salty savor in those towns where people's hearts were deadened. How shall cruelty to brother and sister Man be salted. According to the story, when *Mrs. Lot* looked back, she became a salt pillar in what we now call the salty DEAD SEA. In today's vernacular that's called a compulsion blowout.

The fault with the *Brookings Harbor* shops and parking lot is that perhaps, rather than be irritated with those who have less material happiness, the hapless are to be pitied. Those who have no compassion may need to realize, "*There go I, but for the grace of God*".

And while it is true that there are *major* faults and quake hazards along the entire WEST COAST, there is an increase in concern for the CASCADIA area. Are *Curry, Coos, and Josephine Counties'* building codes and insurance calculations taking into account the likely probability that the safety of your houses and shops is an illusion according to the *United States Geological Survey's* (USGS) updated *National Seismic Hazard Map*.

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The USGS map shows the CASCADIA region of OREGON as highest-risk seismic hazard for very intense shaking, rather than lesser swaying. It would be a leveling experience. May all coastal city inhabitants be in a safer place when the CASCADIA fault snaps.

The Human Spirit Can Be Uplifted

While living a sustainable lifestyle on the Sea or along the coastlines, *Pirate Relief* crews are forming to help revitalize port environments with local *Ocean* clean-up, recycling, and sustainability projects while bringing art, music, storytelling, and theater. *Pirate Relief* arts and storytelling focuses on building community.

If you want to get involved with actors, artists, environmentalists, musicians, sailors, and scientists sailing the seven seas in replica-style tall sailing ships, to ports around the world, now is your chance to visit www.Piraterelief.com. The truly adventuresome will want to contact captain@piraterelief.com , or call 800.605.9705.

The LNG Terminal and Oil Pipeline

Can *President Obama* really enjoy a LNG terminal and oil pipeline where the USGS warns the CASCADIA “*Big One*” is likely to be experienced during the present lifespan of existing coastal buildings in OREGON.

You might notice the sensations in *Salem*, OREGON, as the State wakes up to the realization that all coastline cities and seaports need to be at the ready for a very earthshaking experience. Hello COOS, CURRY, LINCOLN, YAMHILL, TILLAMOOK, and CLATSOP counties, this means *you*.

Intense shaking is also expected to be hazardous in southern ALASKA, the big island of HAWAII, the NEW MADRID fault area, and *Charleston*, SOUTH CAROLINA. So why would you go anywhere near these places with export LNG terminals, oil pipelines, or nuclear energy plants.

The other areas deemed most likely to experience earthshaking intensity include *Arkansas*, *California*, *Colorado*, *Idaho*, *Illinois*, *Kentucky*, *Missouri*, *Montana*, *Nevada*, *Oklahoma*, *Tennessee*, *Utah*, *Washington*, and *Wyoming*. If YELLOWSTONE’s supervolcano erupts it would be like a nuclear blast.

(Sources: June 30, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, “*Curry County outlaws panhandling based on Grants Pass wording*”, by Jane Stebbins CURRY COUNTY PILOT; July 18, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, “*Earthquake risk raised for roughly one-third of U.S.*” by Seth Borenstein, The Associated Press; www.pubs.usgs.gov/of/2014/1091/)

The Inspector General

Natural gas consists almost entirely of methane, which has a greater *Global Warming* effect than carbon dioxide. The *American Gas Association* represents more than 200 natural-gas utilities that own and operate natural gas distribution pipelines that emit about a fifth of all methane seepage. Methane leaks cost consumers \$192 million in 2011. It's problematic that it is merely "*Voluntary*" for the energy companies to modernize and upgrade their pipeline network. The *Inspector General* can't currently compel the EPA to regulate methane emissions until the *Obama Administration* writes new EPA regulations targeting methane emissions of natural gas.

(Source: July 26, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "*EPA Is Criticized Over Natural-Gas Emissions*" BY Amy Harder and Cassandra Sweet)

KSKQ

One could also call KSKQ with your public comments. KSKQ *Talk Radio* broadcasts in the ROGUE VALLEY at 89.5 FM and streams to the world at www.kskq.org. Open public comment time is between 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. The call-in number is 541.482.3999. KSKQ reaches *Ashland, Jacksonville, Medford, Phoenix, Rogue River, and Talent, OREGON*.

The Eco-Community Dialogues

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